

House Resolution 273

By: Representative Cole of the 125th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Welcoming and commending Representative Arnell Willis; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Representative Arnell Willis was born in Popular Grove, Arkansas, on
3 November 15, 1954, and grew up attending local public schools; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he went on to major in business administration with a concentration in
5 accounting at Philander Smith College, graduating with honors on May 8, 1977; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he received a scholarship to attend Atlanta University to pursue an M.B.A. with
7 an emphasis on finance; and
- 8 WHEREAS, after graduating from Atlanta University in 1980, he went to work for Detroit
9 Bank and Trust Company in Detroit, Michigan, and then for the Xerox Corporation in
10 Rochester, New York, demonstrating his exceptional determination, energy, and skill and
11 gaining valuable and diverse experience in each position; and
- 12 WHEREAS, having met the career goals which he had set for himself while in high school,
13 receiving the educational and corporate training he knew would be a great asset to his
14 hometown, he resigned from his position in 1983 and returned home with the goal of using
15 his experiences to benefit his local community; and
- 16 WHEREAS, he started work at Phillips College in 1984 and became actively involved in
17 numerous community organizations and activities; and
- 18 WHEREAS, in 1986, he was elected as alderman from the fourth ward in West Helena and
19 served in that position from 1986 until 1990 when he was tapped to serve as president of
20 Phillips County Chamber of Commerce; and

1 WHEREAS, he was then elected as Justice of the Peace, District Nine on the Phillips County
2 Quorum Court, serving from 1994 to 1996, and in 1996, he founded the Phillips County Self-
3 Help Federal Credit Union; and

4 WHEREAS, he first was elected to serve as the State Representative of District 99 in the
5 Arkansas General Assembly in 1998 and was named Phillips County Citizen of the Year for
6 1999; and

7 WHEREAS, by the example he has made of his life, this distinguished statesman makes his
8 state and our nation a better place in which to live; and

9 WHEREAS, it is highly fitting and proper that this body express its gratitude to Pastor
10 George R. Scott, Sr., and New Damascus Baptist Church for inviting Representative Willis
11 to our state.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
13 the members of this body join in welcoming Representative Arnell Willis to New Damascus
14 Baptist Church and the State of Georgia and commend him for his numerous outstanding
15 achievements and his exemplary commitment to his community.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
17 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Representative Arnell
18 Willis.